

THE DAILY NEWS
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MYSTICAL PHILOSOPHY.

SECRETS OF THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER.

A dispute between the alleged chief and an ex-member of the Rosicrucian Order came yesterday before the Court of Appeal, consisting of Lords Justices Vaughan Williams, Moulton, and Farwell, on the appeal of the defendant in the case of Macgregor v. Crowley from an order of Mr. Justice Bucknill in Chambers, granting an interim injunction restraining the defendant, the editor, and proprietor of a magazine called "The Equinox," from disclosing certain matter in the third number of that magazine, which is now about to be published.

Mr. Whately read an affidavit made by the plaintiff, in which he said he was the chief or head of the Rosicrucian Order, which was instituted in its modern form in 1888 for the study of mystical philosophy and the mysteries of antiquity, somewhat on the lines of the institution of Freemasonry. He (counsel) read the affidavit, from which it appeared that the defendant on November 18th, 1908, signed the preliminary pledge form before becoming a member of the Order, and afterwards ratified the obligation of the pledge by a solemn obligation in the Temple of the Order.

In the September number of "The Equinox" there appeared a quantity of matter emanating from the defendant which the plaintiff said was the grossest possible breach of the defendant's obligations and a serious infringement of the plaintiff's right. It was further said that the article entitled "The Temple of Solomon the King" embodied a wholesale revelation of the rituals and ceremonies of the Order, and an intimation that the revelations would be continued in Nos. 3 and 4 of "The Equinox." Defendant denied infringing any of the plaintiff's rights, or that the plaintiff was the founder and compiler of the alleged rituals and ceremonies and manuscripts of the so-called Order.

Sir Frederick Low, K.C., on behalf of the plaintiff, in reply to Lord Justice Vaughan Williams, said there were no rules of the society in fact, but there was a pledge of secrecy, which the defendant signed.

Lord Justice Farwell said that, having regard to what was published in No. 2 of "The Equinox," he could not see that irreparable damage would be done by allowing the publication in question.

Sir Frederick Low: The cat would be out of the bag.

Lord Justice Farwell: I think it is a dead cat, Sir Frederick.

Sir Frederick Low: If you cannot stop this sort of thing by an injunction, there is practically no remedy at all. The defendant had been turned out of the Order, and what he had done was really out of revenge for his exclusion.

In reply to a question from the Bench, counsel said the plaintiff was only the earthly head of the Order, but there might be some spiritual head of whom they knew nothing. They could not get at the spiritual head for costs and damages. (Laughter.)

In the result Lord Justice Vaughan Williams, in giving judgment allowing the appeal, said he thought the plaintiff had delayed too long before applying for an interim injunction. In those circumstances he did not think that the plaintiff was entitled to restrain the publication in question.

Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton and Lord Justice Farwell agreed, and the appeal was accordingly allowed.